OSTRANDER, McDONNELL & LEWIS

SUICIDE SQUAD™

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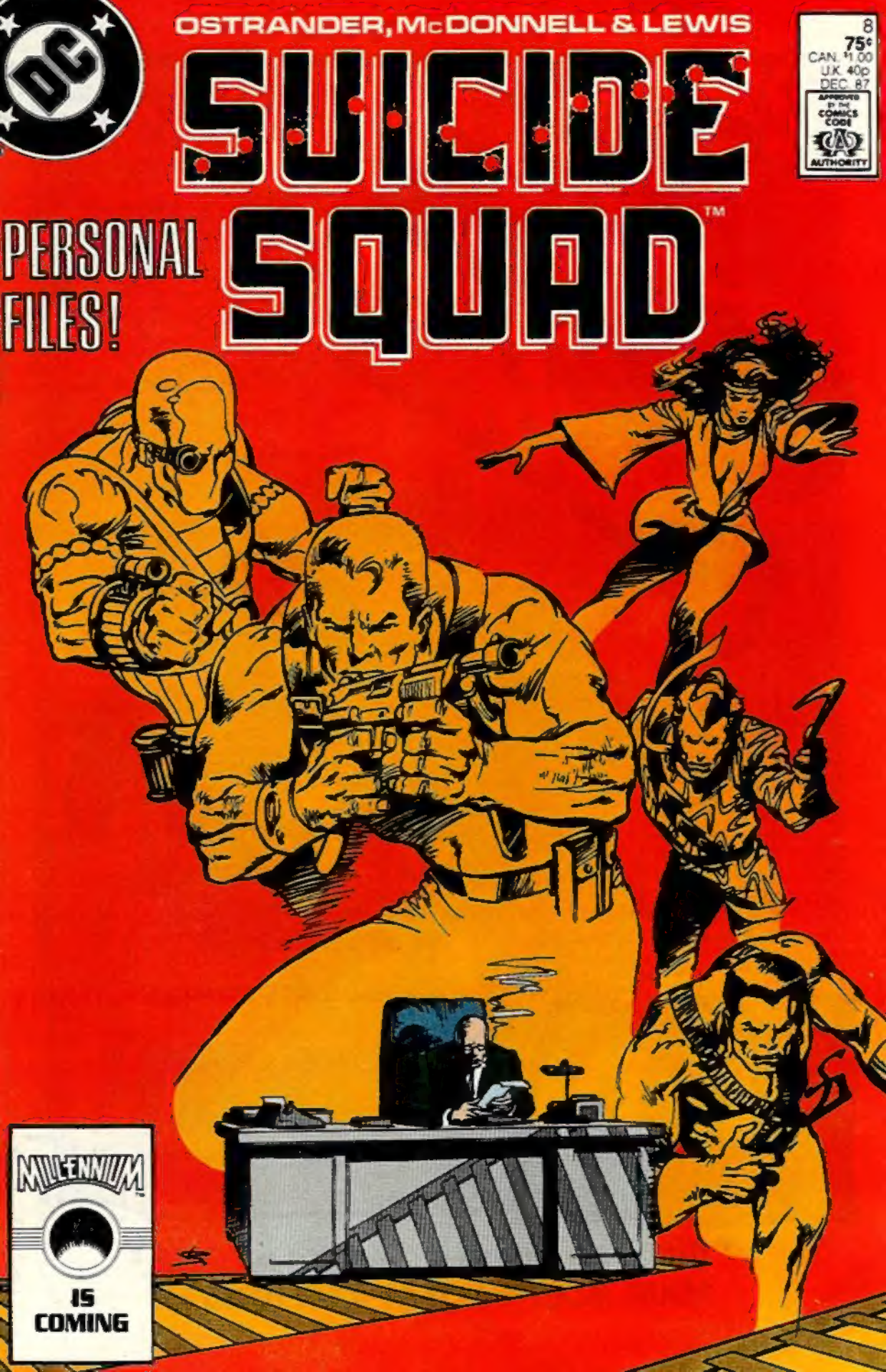
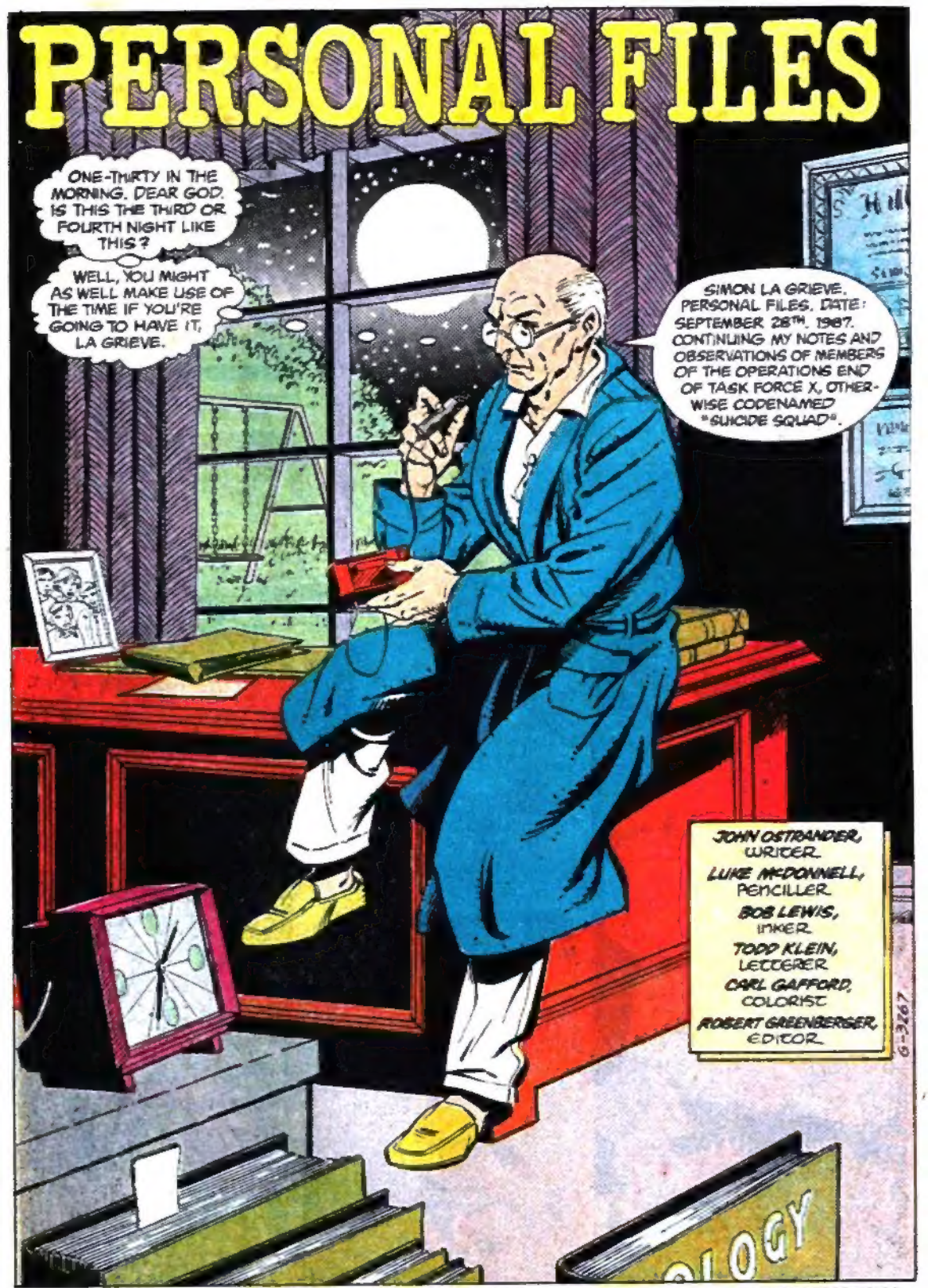
PERSONAL FILES!





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I SOMETIMES WONDER WHY I'VE AGREED TO BECOME THE INHOUSE PSYCHIATRIST TO THIS COLLECTION OF BRUISED AND BATTERED PSYCHES.
WHAT IS IT I'M SEEKING TO ACHIEVE?
"I JOINED AT THE BEHEST OF AMANDA WALLER, WHO I FIRST MET IN AN OUT-PATIENT PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC ON THE NEAR WEST SIDE OF CHICAGO, SOME YEARS AGO."
COMMUNITY HEALTH
WELL, MRS. WALLER, HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
DON'T NEED NO HELP.
NO? YOUR FILE INDICATES A GREAT DEAL OF TRAUMA RECENTLY. YOUR ELDEST SON WAS KILLED. ONE OF YOUR DAUGHTERS WAS RAPED AND MURDERED BY A MAN THAT YOUR HUSBAND--
--LATER SHOT WHILE EXTRACTING REVENGE, DYING IN THE PROCESS.*
*ALL SEEN IN SECRET ORIGINS #14.--BOB
THAT'S A LOT OF PAIN TO WORK THROUGH.
YOURS IS TRANSLATED AS ANGER AND YOU LASH OUT.
THERE'S ALWAYS LOTS OF PAIN. WOMEN GO THROUGH PAIN ON A MONTHLY BASIS THAT'D CRIPPLE MOST MEN.
I NEED THAT ANGER OR THE DAMNED PROJECTS GONNA SWALLOW UP WHAT LITTLE I HAVE LEFT OF MY FAMILY!
CAN'T LET NO ONE TAKE IT FROM ME!
THEN USE IT!

LET'S CHANNEL THAT ANGER SO IT'S USEFUL AND NOT HOLDING YOU BACK FROM WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, LIKE IT IS NOW.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
OKAY.
LET'S TRY.
"MY PLOY MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE. RATHER THAN CONFRONTING AND DEALING WITH HER ANGER, AMANDA NOW USES IT AS A TOOL. IT HAS BECOME INGRAINED; A PART OF HER PERSONALITY.
"THE BRONZE TIGER HAD GOTTEN US WORD OF JUST HOW BOLLIXED UP THE RUSSIAN MISSION HAD BECOME.* AMANDA HIT THE ROOF AND THEN STOMPED OUT TO CONFRONT DEXTER TOLLIVER, OUR LIAISON MAN WITH NSC."
*SEE OUR LAST THREE ISSUES. TOLLIVER WAS LAST SEEN WITH THE SQUAD IN THIS YEAR'S FIRESTORM ANNUAL.--JO
TOLLIVER!
YES, MRS. WALLER? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT?
WHERE'D YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION THAT THIS ZOYA TRIGORIN WANTED OUT OF RUSSIA?
WELL, I SIMPLY ASSUMED SHE WOULD. IS THERE A PROBLEM?
YOU ASSUMED IT?! MY GOD!
AND WHY DIDN'T YOU INFORM STATE?

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

THEY ARE CONSIDERED EXPENDABLE IF NECESSARY, TOLLIVER!
THEY ARE NOT MEANT TO BE THROWN AWAY ON GARBAGE MISSIONS LIKE THIS ONE!
WHO AUTHORIZED THIS FOOL MISSION BESIDES YOU, TOLLIVER?
UH...I...UH...
LIKE I THOUGHT: NO ONE. YOU DONE IT ON YOUR OWN, ASSUMING AN AUTHORITY YOU DON'T HAVE.
YOU BETTER HOPE I GET ALL MY PEOPLE BACK IN ONE PIECE, TOLLIVER.
OR I WILL MAKE IT MY PERSONAL BUSINESS TO SEE YOUR BUTT IS USED FOR SHOE LEATHER!
DAMN! I'M IN FOR IT! EVER SINCE OLLIE'S FIASCO, THE PRESIDENT'S BEEN DOWN ON PERSONAL INITIATIVE!
I NEED TO COVER MY REAR. AND I THINK I KNOW HOW.
AMANDA'S ANGER MAY PROVE DESTRUCTIVE TO THE SQUAD AS WELL AS HERSELF.
"COLONEL FLAG CAME BACK EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY EXHAUSTED FROM THE RUSSIAN DEBACLE AND WAS NOT ENTIRELY REASONABLE..."
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME! I WANT AN IMMEDIATE RESCUE MISSION TO GET NEMESIS OUT OF RUSSIA!
5

MOST OF LOUISIANA HEARD YOU, COLONEL. IT STILL DOESN'T CHANGE A DAMN THING.
WE CAN'T DO IT. EVEN IF WE KNEW WHERE THEY WERE KEEPING TRESSER, THE PRESIDENT WOULDN'T ALLOW IT. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HAVEN'T RECOVERED FROM OUR LAST TRIP OVER THERE.
GET THIS ONCE, WALLER, AND GET THIS STRAIGHT! I WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO THE ABANDONING OF TEAM MEMBERS IN THE FIELD!
WHY NOT? YOU DID BEFORE.
KARIN!
YOU LEFT TWO BEHIND IN THE HIMALAYAS.
YOU ABANDONED ME WHILE I SUFFERED...WHILE I HAD MY NERVOUS BREAKDOWN.*
*A SOMEWHAT JAUNDICED VIEW OF EVENTS SHOWN IN SECRET ORIGINS #14.
IT WAS YOUR DUTY. AND YOU ALWAYS DO YOUR DUTY, DON'T YOU?
DAMMIT, KARIN...!
LET GO OF ME.
NO! NOT UNTIL I'VE MADE YOU UNDERSTAND!

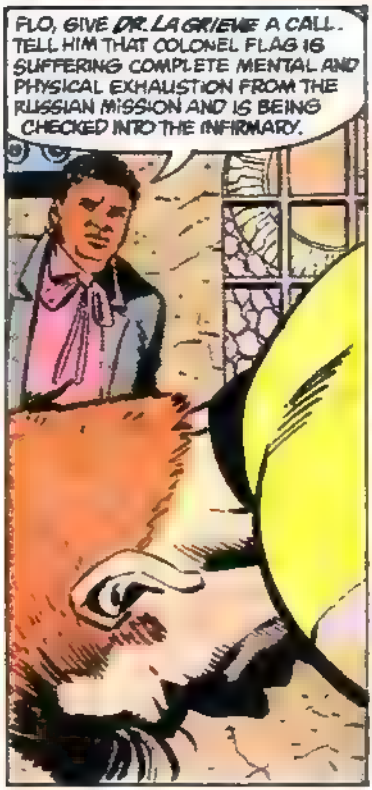
COLONEL FLAG, I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU LET GO OF DR. GRACE THIS MINUTE.
WELL?
BUTT OUT, WALLER! THIS IS PRIVATE. STICK YOUR FAT NOSE...AND MOUTH... SOMEWHERE ELSE!
REALLY, SIR!
?
THE REQUEST OF A LADY SHOULD BE AS A COMMAND TO A GENTLEMAN.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
MARK SHAW, A.K.A. THE PRIVATEER, AND NEWEST MEMBER OF THIS STALWART BAND OF HEROES.
HUH. NEWEST JOKER IN A PACK OF JOKERS.
THE BUSINESS WITH THE LADY IS PERSONAL, SHAW. BUZZ OFF.
KRAK!
I TRUST THIS MAKES IT MINE AS WELL.
7

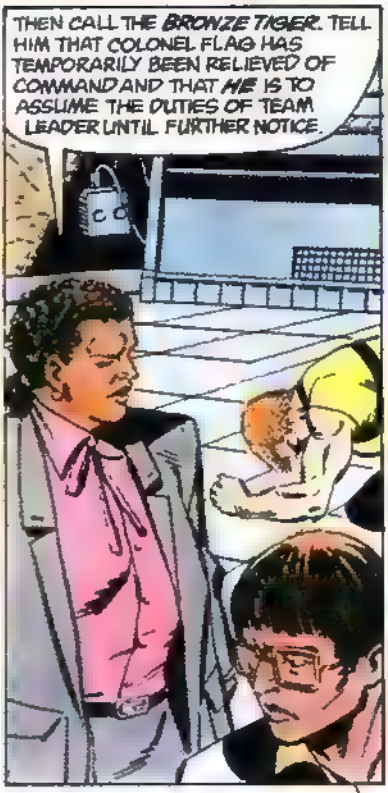
OH YEAH.
NOPE.
THIS IS HARDLY FAIR, COLONEL. YOU'VE HARDLY HAD A CHANCE TO RECOVER FROM YOUR RUSSIAN ADVENTURE. SHALL WE TABLE THIS UNTIL YOU'RE MORE REFRESHED?
KRAK!
CHUD!
BAM!
WHUD!

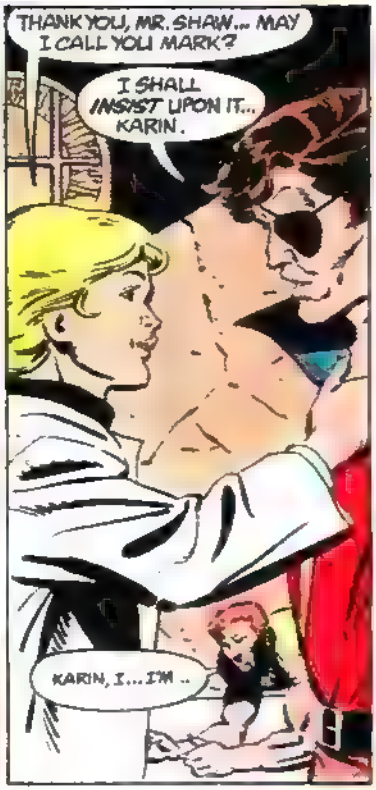
OOOF!
WHAM!
KRAK!
GHNNG!
GRUNT!
KRAK!
KRAK!
WHAM!

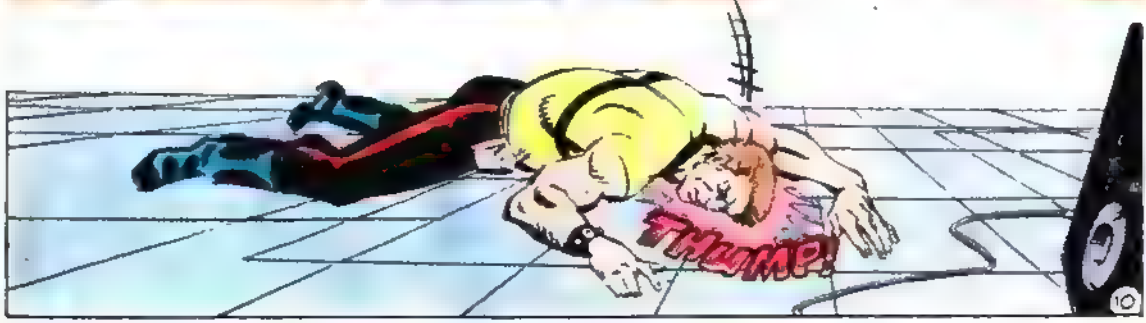
BRAVELY FOUGHT, COLONEL, BUT IT'S OVER. LET US SAY YOU WERE NOT AT YOUR BEST, HM?

AND YOU NEED TO BE AT YOUR BEST IF YOU'RE TO FACE ONE WHO WAS TRAINED BY THE MANKUNTERS.*
* SEE FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL #5. -- BACK-ISSUE BOB.


FLO, GIVE DR. LA GRIEVE A CALL. TELL HIM THAT COLONEL FLAG IS SUFFERING COMPLETE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL EXHAUSTION FROM THE RUSSIAN MISSION AND IS BEING CHECKED INTO THE INFIRMARY.

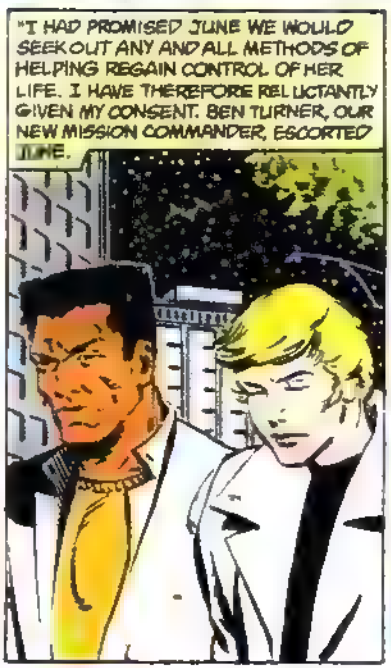

THEN CALL THE BRONZE TIGER. TELL HIM THAT COLONEL FLAG HAS TEMPORARILY BEEN RELIEVED OF COMMAND AND THAT HE IS TO ASSUME THE DUTIES OF TEAM LEADER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.


THANK YOU, MR. SHAW... MAY I CALL YOU MARK?
I SHALL INSIST UPON IT... KARIN.
KARIN, I... I'M ..


THUMP!

"NOR AM I OVERLY HAPPY IN THE DECISION MADE REGARDING JUNE MOONE AND HER ALTER EGO, THE ENCHANTRESS.

"CONSIDERING THE ACTIONS OF THE ENCHANTRESS TO A LARGE DEGREE TRIGGERED THE RUSSIAN DEBACLE, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT SHE HAD BECOME TOO UNSTABLE TO BE USED ON MISSIONS WITHOUT PROPER CONTROL, WITH WHICH I HEARTILY AGREE.

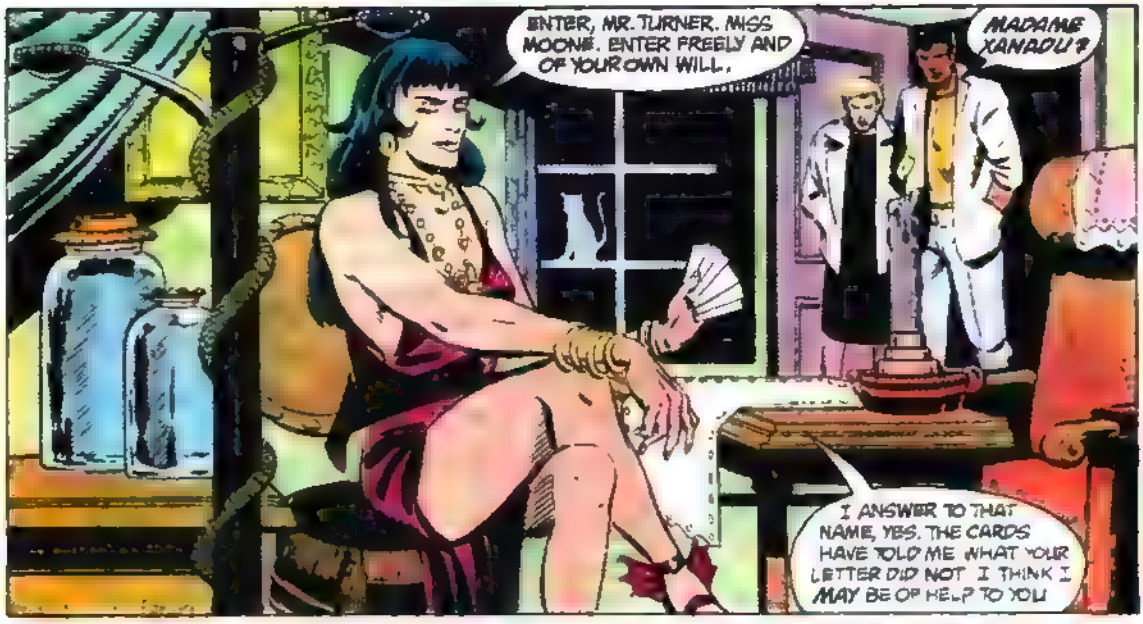


THIS IS THE PLACE
IF BORIS KARLOFF ANSWERS THE DOOR, BEN, I'M GONE!

HI. YOU'RE HERE TO SEE MADAME XANADU, RIGHT? SHE KNEW YOU WERE COMING. SHE KNOWS WHEN EVERYONE'S COMING.
GO ON IN. THE DOOR ON THE LEFT.

SO, WHO WERE THEY? FRIENDS OR CLIENTS?

DON'T KNOW, JUNE, BUT PERSONALLY I FOUND THEM SPOOKIER THAN KARLOFF.


ENTER, MR. TURNER. MISS MOONE. ENTER FREELY AND OF YOUR OWN WILL.
MADAME XANADU?
I ANSWER TO THAT NAME, YES. THE CARDS HAVE TOLD ME WHAT YOUR LETTER DID NOT. I THINK I MAY BE OF HELP TO YOU.

PLEASE, BE SEATED

YOUR *PROBLEM*, MISS MOONE, IS THAT YOU BEGAN EXERCISING MAGICAL POWER WITHOUT ANY *TRAINING*. YOU KNEW NOTHING OF *SHIELDS AND SAFEGUARDS*.

THE RESULT IS THAT THE MAGIC USAGE ERODED YOUR *AURA* WHICH HELPS DEFLECT EVIL INFLUENCES IN *ALL* USES OF MAGIC

AS THE AURA BECAME *ERODED*, THE USE OF MAGIC *TWISTED* THE ENCHANTRESS PERSONA THAT WIELDED IT.

THE AURA CAN BECOME BUILT UP AGAIN BY *NOT* USING MAGIC. UNFORTUNATELY, FOR MANY WIELDING MAGIC IS *ADDICTIVE*, LIKE A DRUG

IN TIME, WE MAY FIND A WAY TO *ARTIFICIALLY* REPLENISH YOUR AURA SO THAT YOUR OWN NATURE CAN REASSERT ITSELF ON THE ENCHANTRESS PERSONA

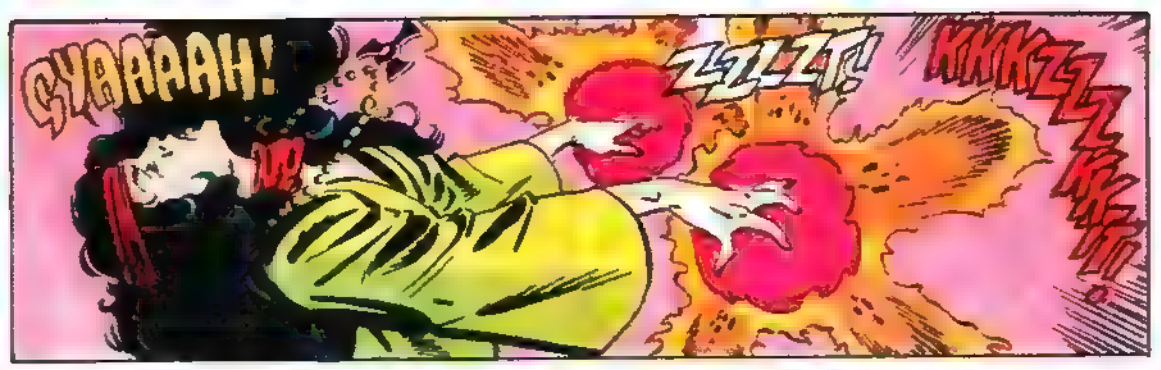
IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS ONE OTHER THING WE MAY DO.

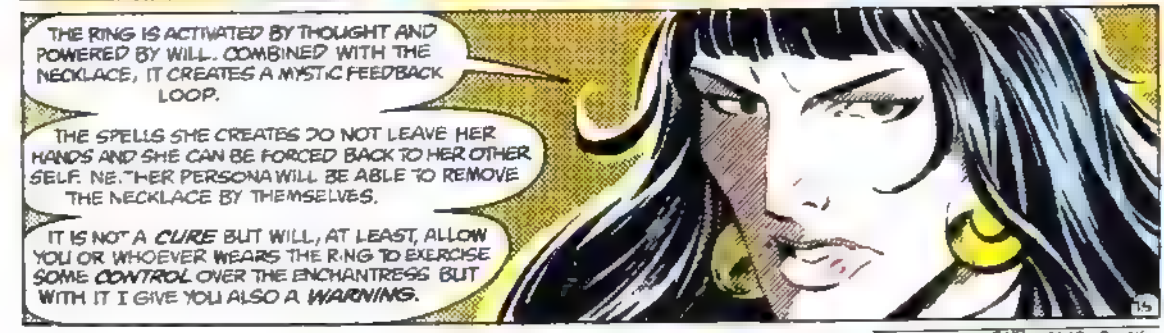
HERE. PUT ON THIS NECKLACE

OH, GEE, NO, I COULDN'T ..

PUT IT ON THEN INVOKE YOUR OTHER PERSONA

I DON'T DARE...!
DO AS SHE TELLS YOU, JUNE. I'M HERE.
...ENCHANTRESS...!
SHAKOW!
HAHAHAHAHA!
THANK YOU, DARLINGS, FOR SPREADING WIDE THE GATE!
I AM PERFECTLY AWARE, HOWEVER, OF HOW I HAVE BEEN TREATED BY THIS WORLD AS OF LATE!
THE WORLD WILL BE PAID IN KIND!
BEGINNING WITH THE TWO OF YOU!
I THINK NOT, ENCHANTRESS. COME, LEARN YOUR LESSON.
IMPUDENT STRUMPET! YOU SHALL BE FIRST TO TASTE MY ANGER!
SHAKASHAZOW!





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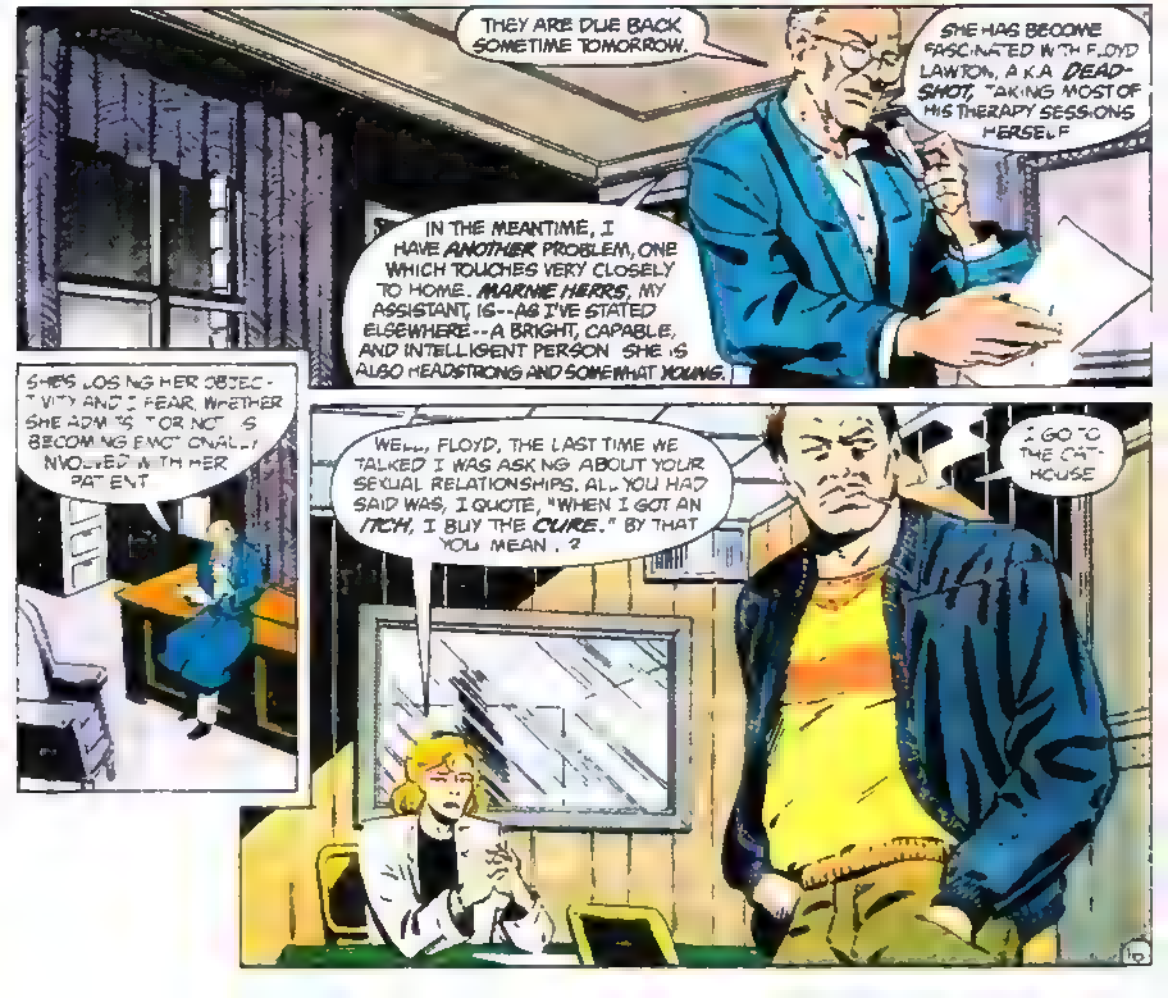
THE MORE THE ENCHANTRESS IS USED, THE STRONGER SHE WILL GET. THE MORE INFLUENCE SHE WILL HAVE OVER HER OTHER PERSONA.
SHE WILL GET MORE CUNNING... IN BOTH PERSONAS. THEY MAY MERGE.

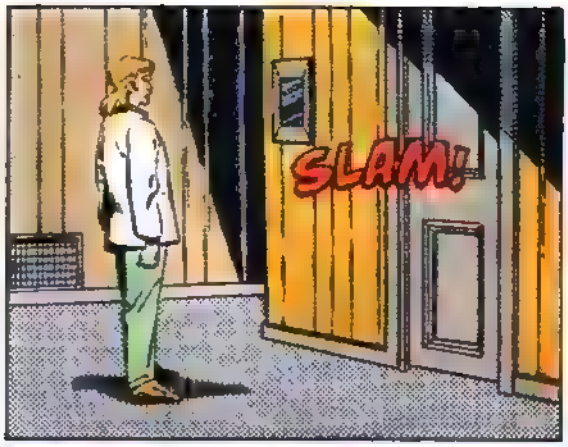
SHE WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY BECAUSE OF THE RING AND THE NECKLACE
SHOULD SHE BREAK FREE FROM THAT CONTROL SHE WILL BE MORE VIOLENT AND UNCONTROLLABLE THAN SHE WAS BEFORE. A FINAL SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND FOR DEALING WITH HER

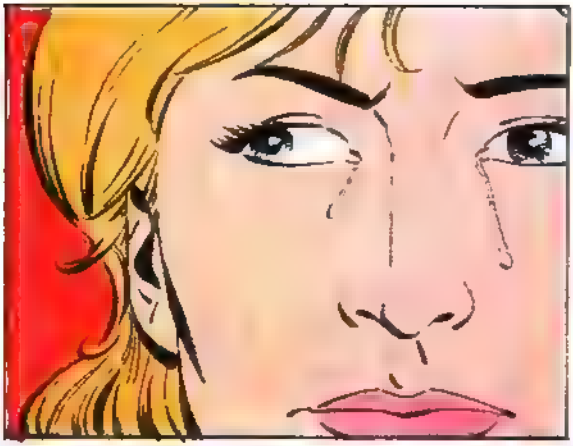
AS IT IS, JUNE MOONE IS A MYSTIC TIME BOMB

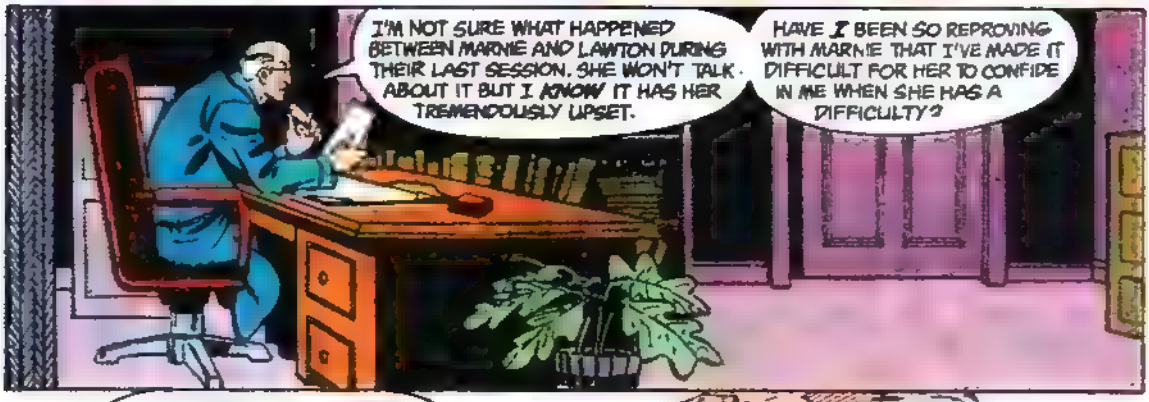

THEY ARE DUE BACK SOMETIME TOMORROW.
SHE HAS BECOME FASCINATED WITH FLOYD LAWTON, A.K.A. DEADSHOT, TAKING MOST OF HIS THERAPY SESSIONS HERSELF
IN THE MEANTIME, I HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM, ONE WHICH TOUCHES VERY CLOSELY TO HOME. MARNIE HERRS, MY ASSISTANT, IS--AS I'VE STATED ELSEWHERE--A BRIGHT, CAPABLE, AND INTELLIGENT PERSON. SHE IS ALSO HEADSTRONG AND SOMEWHAT YOUNG.
SHE'S LOSING HER OBJECTIVITY AND I FEAR, WHETHER SHE ADMITS IT OR NOT, IS BECOMING EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED WITH HER PATIENT.
WELL, FLOYD, THE LAST TIME WE TALKED I WAS ASKING ABOUT YOUR SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS. ALL YOU HAD SAID WAS, I QUOTE, "WHEN I GOT AN ITCH, I BUY THE CURE." BY THAT YOU MEAN...?
I GO TO THE CATHOUSE

IS IT BECAUSE YOU FEEL UNABLE TO HAVE A NORMAL EMOTIONAL RELATIONSHIP?
UNINTERESTED.
KEEPS THINGS SIMPLE. NONE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP GARBAGE. DON'T HAFTA WASTE MY TIME TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WIMMEN WANT.
YOU FIND WOMEN COMPLICATED?
THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT. ONE YEAR, THEY WANT MEN TO BE ALL SENSITIVE, THE NEXT THEY WANT MACHO-MEN.
T' HELL WITH IT.
THE PROS KEEP IT ON A CASH BASIS. SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD.
ALL WOMEN ARE PROS ANYWAY.
I BEG YOUR PARDON!
I WAS RAISED RICH. SAW WOMEN MARRY GUYS FOR THE BUCKS AND THEN DIVORCE 'EM AND TAKE 'EM FOR ALL THEY COULD GET.
REAL PROS MAKE YOU PAY ONLY ONCE. NOT ALL YOUR LIFE.
HELL! YOU'RE A PRO, TOO
ALL THIS CARING...! IT'S WHAT YOU'RE PAID TO DO! YER JUST ANOTHER PRO!
WHAK!

I...
LOOK, I'M...
THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN, OKAY?
18

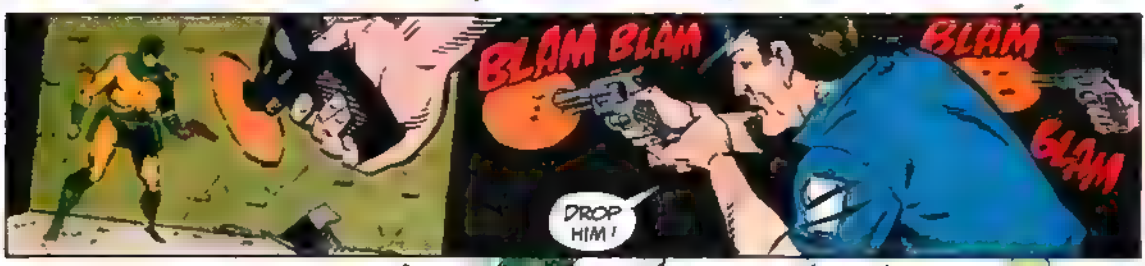

SLAM!




I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN MARNIE AND LAWTON DURING THEIR LAST SESSION. SHE WON'T TALK ABOUT IT BUT I KNOW IT HAS HER TREMENDOUSLY UPSET.
HAVE I BEEN SO REPROVING WITH MARNIE THAT I'VE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR HER TO CONFIDE IN ME WHEN SHE HAS A DIFFICULTY?

THEN THERE IS MY OTHER PROBLEM: DIGGER HARKNESS, CAPTAIN BOOMERANG AS HE LIKES TO BE CALLED. ON THE ONE HAND, HE MAY BE THE BEST-ADJUSTED CHARGE I HAVE. HE'S CONTENT WITH WHO HE IS.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT HE'S AN UNPRINCIPLED SOCIOPATH WITH LITTLE OR NO MORAL SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG! HE MAY LIKE WHAT HE IS BUT NO ONE ELSE IN THE GROUP CAN STAND HIM! I'M AFRAID THAT INCLUDES ME.
WOOOO! WOOOO! WOOOOO!
"GIVE HIM AN INCH AND HE'LL STEAL A MILE. I KEEP FINDING NEW DEPTHS OF HIS CHARACTER THAT HE SINKS TO.
SCREECH!
"HE IS FOREVER HATCHING SOME NEW SCHEME JUST FOR THE PLEASURE OF IT. I FEAR THAT HIS PLEASURES MAY YET COMPROMISE OUR EXISTENCE."

DISPATCH SAYS THE SUSPECT'S M.O. CORRESPONDS TO A GUY THEY CALL MIRROR MASTER.
HUH? WHAT'S HE DOIN' IN N'AWLINS?
WHAT'S HE DOIN' ALIVE? I HEERD HE WUZ DEAD!
HE'S ROBBIN' A JEWELRY STORE, THAT'S WHAT! NAIL HIS BUTT!
FASHHH!
WATCH IT, Y'ALL! HE'S USIN' THET FREAKY GUN O' HIS!
WOOOOO!
WHAT TH' HAIL--!
WOOOOOO!
ROARRR!
WHAM!
WE GOT 'IM NOW, BOYS! THET ALLEY HE JEST POPPED INTA'S A DEAD END!



*THE ORIGINAL MIRROR MASTER WHO DIED DURING THE CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS. -- BOB

NOW WHEN I GET AN ITCH TO DO A JOB, I CAN PULL IT AS MIRROR MASTER.
MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN BOOMERANG STAYS ON THE GOOD SIDE OF OL' MAMMY WALLER. ALWAYS ASSUMING SHE HAS A GOOD SIDE.
I LET THE FEDS SUBSIDIZE ME OFFICIAL LIFE WHILE I ENTERTAIN MYSELF AS MIRROR MASTER!
WHO SAYS YA CAN'T HAVE YER CAKE AND EAT IT, TOO? HAW!
IT'LL BE DAWN SOON. ANOTHER NIGHT OF LITTLE OR NO SLEEP.
I NOTE THAT STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT, AS A GROUP, PSYCHIATRISTS HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHER PERCENTILE RATES OF ATTEMPTED AND/OR ACHIEVED SUICIDES.
I KNOW WHY. THE STRESS OF TRYING TO RELIEVE STRESS; THE FEARS AND DESPAIR THAT COME FROM DEALING WITH FEARS AND DESPAIR. AT TIMES, I AM ALSO OVERWHELMED BY THEM AND A SENSE OF FUTILITY.
BUT I ALSO HAVE MY HOME... MY FAMILY AS A REFUGE ... A BALANCE TO THAT DESPAIR.
AND I THANK GOD FOR IT.
SIMON?
ANOTHER SLEEPLESS NIGHT?
I'M AFRAID SO, RUTH.
C'MON. I'LL FIX YOU BREAKFAST, OKAY?
WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS, I KNOW I DON'T FACE IT ALONE.
END.
NEXT: MILLENNIUM

SUICIDE NOTES

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Dear Mr. Ostrander,

I assumed there would be a knock-down, drag-out fight inside SUICIDE SQUAD #4, judging by the cover, but I was pleasantly surprised when I saw the violence was kept to a minimum.

I was also pleasantly surprised by the distinction Amanda Waller made between conservatives and reactionaries on page 11, panel five *and* the observation by Rick Flag that the protestors on *both* sides are "at heart ... good people." Kudos on a far above average job.

Larry L. King
Bridge Street Box 1890
Morrisville, VT 05661

• • • • •

Dear Suicidal People,

Black Orchid in the Suicide Squad? Hooray! I was beginning to think that every person in DC had taken a vow to ignore the readers' constant plea for more of her. Now that you have given us some hope, let's renew the pleas: more, more Black Orchid!

And now, has everybody taken a vow to forget Blue Devil? Not that I think he would make a fine Squad regular, but I would like to see him, guest starring somewhere if only to keep the hero population of DC Earth fairly consistent and accounted for.

Peter Perez
DE-16, 217th Street
Valle Arriba Heights Carolina 00630
Puerto Rico

The Orchid was back last month and will reappear when needed. There is also a fine mini-series in development that will knock your socks off. Trust us.

We haven't forgotten about of Blue Devil. As a matter of fact, Dan Mishkin and Gary Cohn just finished plotting a tale for SECRET ORIGINS and we commend your attention to MILLENNIUM for more devilishness. And then ...ah, that would be telling.

• • • • •

Dear Editor,

SUICIDE SQUAD #4 was a slight step down from the first three issues. William Hell just wasn't a very convincing villain. For somebody who was supposed to be a charismatic demagogue, I just didn't get any sense of fear of commanding presence out of him. He might as well have been a two-bit soapbox speaker for all the impact he made. It was, however, the first time anybody's said something bad about Central City, which was always played as middle-America paradise as long as a certain speedy hero was around.

The conversation on page 10 was interesting. You know, just how many long-running Black super-villains *are* there in comics these days? You can count them on your fingers. We could have a clear-cut case of discrimination here. On the other hand, Amanda Waller's husbend and two children were murdered not by whites but by the Black street criminals that Boomerang was talking about. That was the most undiscussed topic of modern criminology, Black-on-Black crime. A most intriguing conversation.

I'd like to see a team-up with the Justice League, because I've been trying to gauge the reactions of various super-heroes to an organization that specializes in getting super-villains out of jail as fast as the heroes throw them in. What would Batman think of such a set-up?

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton STREET
Brentwood, NY 11717

Keep reading, Charles. We've been setting up a Batman-Squad confrontation for a while now. And the JLI aren't far behind.

• • • • •

Dear Suiciders,

SS #4 was an amazing issue, your best so far. The story was well thought out and exciting despite the fact that an earth-shattering event wasn't taking place. The group had an excellent, well-thought out plan that worked very well. I liked how you mentioned a Chronos device in the beginning, but never specified what the thing did. Then, at the end, you showed the bolt miss like anyone else would have seen it instead of Bronze Tiger moving independently through the spaces between moments, deflecting the bolt. By that time I had forgotten about it. I also liked how you gave a part to every member, so that no one was just standing to the side.

I'd like to see more of the Advance Team. Black Orchid is a mysterious, and interesting, character.

Adam Star Ruvola
No Address Given

• • • • •

Dear Squadsters,

SS #4 is an example of a rare thing in comics today—a well told regular-length story that wasn't a flashback or untold story. Plus, it fit nicely into the continuity of the series as a whole.

The character of William Hell was interesting and certainly topical. In a way though, I'd like to have seen more of him, and to see the Squad battle the Aryan Empire on a fuller scale. But they had a job to do, and they accomplished it. Not all the members could be expected to disagree with the Aryans and this angle also added to the realism in the story.

About this Black Orchid—excuse my ignorance, but who is she? And where's Nemesis?

The plot the Squad used against Heller was terrific. I caught on to most of it as it unfolded, but it wasn't too obvious. I enjoyed seeing what the Squad was doing and trying to figure out their next move. They're really becoming a pretty good team, probably in spite of themselves. Well, keep it up, keep Captain Boomerang around and keep giving us more super-villain guest-stars.

Stephen Cade
4831-49 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta
Canada

Black Orchid was originally introduced in ADVENTURE COMICS #428, in 1973. A creation of Sheldon Mayer, her background was never explored and her mysterious, powerful presence has made her one of the more enigmatic members of the DC Universe. See WHO'S WHO #3 for details.

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Dear Bob,

SS #4 was the best issue so far. Of course, I love the group, the concept and the characters (especially Deadshot and Mrs. Waller) of the series.

The trap laid for Heller was bril-liant—very intricate and impressive. And the Squad pulled it off to a "T". It would be easy for this book to become so grim that it would lose its ability to entertain, and I'm glad John's not letting that happen. We end the story on a hopeful note with the bigot discredited and the public pointed in the right direction. None of this means that life is a bed of roses for any of the members of the Squad, but they *are* professionals who get the job done.

Some high points: the Bronze Tiger vs. Captain Boomerang on racial issues; Deadshot's arrogance about making the shot; and the revelation that Rick wrote the William Hell speech. These are all examples of great characterization and storytelling.

And a big welcome aboard to Bob Lewis! I hope he and Luke will stick around for a long time and keep turning out such fantastic art.

Janette R. Gerdes
Box 343
Collinsville, IL 62234

Dear Mr. Greenberger,

Suicide Squad has possibilities galore; I didn't see them in issue #4. Perhaps Mr. Ostrander is stretching himself thin, as are many during this boom in the comics industry, but this issue felt like a fill-in issue.

The story was outdated, I think. I'm aware of the KKK, the Order and other white supremecy organizations that have had a resurgence of late, but I hope these are still fringe elements. The race riot scenario strikes me as sixties-ish.

But the main reason I found this story to be below par is that I see no advancement of character. The moralistic platitudes expressed at the end seemed appropriate of a Disney movie and Captain Boomerang's dialogue was as silly as his costume!

I'm sorry for being so critical. Bob Lewis' inks looked great and showed how much Luke McDonnell has improved. It's hard to tell with Karl Kesel's inks

Charlie Harris
2657 North Mountain
Tucson, AZ 85719

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Dear Editor,

Re: SUICIDE SQUAD #4 . Clunk. Clunk. Clunk. I knew that eventually you guys would produce a clunker and boy this one was it!

I'm sure that the motives behind "William Hell's Overture" were good: racism is a horrible thing and should be stamped out as quickly as possible, but I don't think that you carried it off very well. Why did the guy have to be a Nazi? I assume that a person can't dislike another race without being a Nazi or a member of the KKK. I'm not defending the bigot, but it makes me mad that everytime a racist appears in a comic, he is a card-carrying member of the Nazi party. It would be nice to see someone at DC reverse the trend just once.

As for the art, let me be the first one to say welcome to Bob Lewis, and bid a fond farewell to Karl. The art does take on a different look with Karl gone, but Bob still adds a lot to Luke's excellent pencils.

Kevin Hall
PO Box 708
Castelwood, VI 24224

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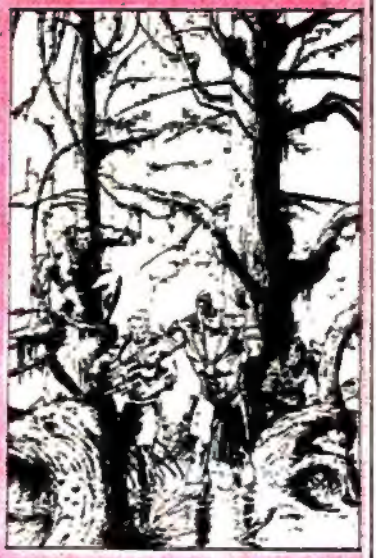
COMING ATTRACTIONS

As you can tell from comments and ads here, there, and below MILLENNIUM is sure to be *the* talked about comic of the fall. Since it effects everyone on Earth, that includes our guys, the Squad. The key is to read the first *four* issues of MILLENNIUM (and any crossovers you *want* to read) and then come right here for SS#9. You will be in for a treat since the story is also tied-in with SPECTRE #10, DETECTIVE COMICS #582 and CAPTAIN ATOM #11 (not as easy feat, just ask John O.). You can remember all this by looking for the four-way inter-connected cover by Jerry Bingham. There are shocks, betrayals, explosions, revelations and death. And we still fit it all in 22 pages!

The month after, we lead out of MILLENNIUM and deal with a certain pointy-ear gentlemen who has been suspicious about the government ever since FIRESTORM ANNUAL a few weeks back.

Until the, enjoy yourselves, relax, drop me a line and of course, keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger



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Perry White

Lois Lane

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